Meeting on TAP Project

677. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has accepted the observer status in the proposed Turkmenistan—Afghanistan-Pakistan gas project; and

(b) the details fo outcome of the ninth meeting of the Steering Committee of the project held in the third week of October, 2005;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India has accepted the invitation to participate in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project as an 'Observer'.

The meeting of the Ministerial Steering Committee of the project, scheduled to take place in October 2005, was postponed. The date of the next meeting of the Steering Committee has not been finalized so far.

Losses suffered by ONGC in Mumbai High fire

678. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fire incident at Mumbai High North on 27th July, 2005 caused extensive damage to life and property, apart from loss of production for a long period;

(b) what is the amount of loss suffered by ONGC on account of this mishap;

(c) what amount is settled by insurance company; and

(d) what steps are taken/initiated to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.